

March 2, 1999

LEGISLATION REGARDING INDIA
AND PAKISTAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H. Res. 84, legislation recognizing the recent achievements of the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in fostering peaceful relations between the two nations.

This past week, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India courageously crossed the long tense Punjabi border to visit his Pakistani host and counterpart, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. This visit, the first by an Indian premier to Pakistan in ten years, was only the third such visit since Partition in 1947. Prime Minister Vajpayee refused to cancel his trip despite a recent horrific and despicable terrorist attack in Jammu killing 20 civilians.

During their summit, the two leaders signed the "Lahore Declaration," which commits India and Pakistan to reaching universal nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and reaffirms their commitment not to conduct future nuclear tests. In this agreement, the parties have also agreed to engage in bilateral consultations on security, disarmament, and non-proliferation issues and have issued a condemnation of terrorism.

Since Partition, India and Pakistan, together the home of more than one-fifth of the world's population, have fought three wars against each other. The conflict in Kashmir has cost 30,000 to 50,000 civilian lives.

H. Res. 84 praises this positive step taken by the leadership of India and Pakistan in resolving the differences of these two neighboring countries, sharing so much history and culture, through diplomacy and celebrates this small victory for dialogue. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 84. I request the full text of H. Res. 84, be printed in the RECORD at this point.

H. RES.—

Whereas on February 22, 1999, the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed the "Lahore Declaration" to develop and secure a durable peace and to develop harmonious relations and friendly cooperation between the two nations;

Whereas the Lahore Declaration states and affirms the commitment of the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the objective of universal nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

Whereas the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have reaffirmed their commitment to continue to abide by their respective unilateral moratorium on conducting further nuclear test explosions;

Whereas the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have agreed to take immediate steps to reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons;

Whereas the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have agreed to commence bilateral consultations on security, disarmament and non-proliferation issues within the context of negotiations on these issues in multilateral form; and

Whereas the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have reaffirmed

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and their determination to combat this menace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significance and importance of the Lahore Declaration as a step toward durable peace and the development of harmonious relations and friendly cooperation between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and

(2) supports the commitment of the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to universal nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful regional relations.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER MICHIGAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE BEV-
ERLEY A. BODEM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to Beverly Bodem, a former representative to the Michigan House of Representatives from the 106th Representative District, which is comprised of four counties in my congressional district.

First elected to the House in 1990, Bev Bodem has just concluded her service in that body because of the Michigan term limits law. This law was enacted at the will of the voters of Michigan, but I have to confess that in this case I believe the law has turned a hard-working and well-respected public servant out of office.

Bev Bodem was known especially for her constituent service and for paying attention to the people in her northern Michigan district. These efforts cut across party lines, and Bev was willing to work arm and arm with me on issues that affected the people she was elected to serve.

One of the issues which she successfully tackled was the problem faced by resort operators and other tourism-based industries in her district, a district which straddles the northern tip of Lower Michigan to touch both Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Because the state's school year began before Labor Day, resorts, restaurants and other tourism businesses lost much of the summer help. Students themselves had to leave good summer jobs before the official end of the tourist season. Bev worked hard to adjust the school year to begin after Labor Day, benefitting employers, employees, and the many guests and visitors to our beautiful state.

Bev Bodem has been involved in her district and her community in many ways outside of her elected office. Such organizations as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Alpena, the Thunder Bay Arts Council, the Alpena Lions Club, the Alpena General Hospital Auxiliary and the League of Women Voters have benefited from her willingness to serve and work for the betterment of her community.

Bev, her husband Dennis and daughter Jennifer, a school teacher, always presented a living picture of a warm, friendly and proud family of public service to all northern Michigan.

3417

Bev always demonstrated the "best" of politics by working hard for all the people of her district, and she did so with a warm, friendly smile on her face. It was obvious she enjoyed her legislative career, and her constituents, enjoyed having her as their representative.

The people of northern Michigan will miss Bev Bodem as the state representative, and I will miss working with her.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 628

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation I introduced on February 8, 1999, which would authorize the deployment of U.S. troops to assist law enforcement in patrolling U.S. borders. I urge all Members to cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

Our current program to stop drugs from coming into America is a joke. Eighty percent of the cocaine and heroin smuggled into America is transited across the U.S.-Mexico border. We are losing the war on drugs. If hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers can be sent all over the world to protect other countries, certainly a few thousand can be redeployed here in the U.S. to help protect America from the scourge of drugs.

My bill, H.R. 628, authorizes the Department of Defense to assign U.S. troops to assist federal law enforcement in monitoring and patrolling U.S. borders, and inspecting cargo, vehicles and aircraft at points of entry into the U.S. Under the bill such assistance could be provided only at the express request of the U.S. Attorney General or Secretary of the Treasury. The bill also mandates special law enforcement training for troops deployed to border areas, requires all U.S. troops patrolling the border to be accompanied by federal law enforcement agents, bars soldiers from making arrests, and requires the federal government to notify state and local government officials of any deployment of U.S. troops. Last year the House overwhelmingly approved a similar provision that I sponsored as an amendment to the FY 1999 DoD bill. The amendment, however, was dropped during a House-Senate conference.

Make no mistake about it, the Border Patrol, INS and Customs Service desperately need the help our military could provide. For example, only three out of every 100 trucks coming into the U.S. from Mexico are inspected. In addition, recent news reports reveal that the INS is considering releasing thousands of dangerous illegal aliens currently being held in detention centers because of funding and manpower shortages. And finally, in just the last year, federal agents in one border sector alone seized 132 tons of marijuana and more than 3 tons of cocaine worth a total of \$408 million.

I recently cosigned a letter with a number of my colleagues imploring the President to fill a backlog of vacant Border Patrol positions. But clearly this is not enough. By the time those positions are filled with qualified candidates,